enabled consumer service centres, and on projects for improvement of distribution networks.

Chairperson of CERC

1800. SHRI EKANATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's (CERC) office has been functioning without a Chairperson for almost a year now;

(b) whether it is fact that this is at a time when the country is in the midst of its most ambitious power project addition programme, 78,000 Megawatt by 2012, and requires investments over $100 billion in the sector; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to appoint Chairpersons of CERC?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The post of Chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) fell vacant on 24.03.2007. The Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Chairperson and Members of CERC shall be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendations of the Selection Committee as stipulated in the Act.

Accordingly, a reference was made to the Selection Committee under the provisions of the Act for giving its recommendation for appointment to the above post. The recommendation of the Selection Committee was examined and the prosposal for appointment to the post has been submitted for orders of the Competent Authority.

Issues relating to power sector

1801. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a meeting held recently under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to discuss the issues relating to power sector it was agreed unanimously, that the unduly long time for environmental clearance would trip Government's efforts to quickly ramp up generation capacity through ultra Mega Power Projects;

(b) what are the other main points discussed in the meeting and to what extent these steps would help in removing all the hurdles in the way of implementing the power projects; and

(c) what concrete measures Government has taken to see that all power projects are completed within the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SHSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Power Sector related issues were reviewed in a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister. In this meeting held on 18.1.2008, *inter alia*, issues related to expeditious environment clearance in respect of Ultra Mega Power Projects, significantly reducing the time-frame for grant of environment/forest clearance for power and mining projects meant for power

projects, establishment of National Electricity Fund, monitoring of coal supplies, introduction of restructured APDRP scheme and operationalization of open access were discussed.

(c) To ensure timely completion of power projects, the following measures have been taken by Government:

- Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has a nodal officer associated with each ongoing project who continuously monitors the progress at site through frequent visits and continuous intercation.
- Regular meetings are being organized in Ministry of Power with CEA, Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and other stakeholders with a view to review the critical milestones associated with each ongoing project.
- To strengthen the monitoring mechanism, steps have been taken to set up a Power Project Monitoring Panel (PPMP).

Power generation projects

1802. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stipulated power generating projects for 2006 have started on schedule; if so, how many megawatts of electricity would be available to the consumers from these projects;

(b) whether the targets for power projects during the Eleventh Five Year Plan would be completed as planned and if so, what is their generating capacity; and

(c) whether the power for industry, farming and domestic consumption would be available round the clock, after the Eleventh Five Year Plan in 2012?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Orders were placed in the Central, State and Private sectors in respect of 33 power projects of 12757.4 MW (24 thermal projects of 10229.4 MW and 9 hydro projects of 2528 MW capacity) during January, 2006 to December, 2006.

(b) During the 11th Plan, a capacity addition of 78,577 MW has been envisaged. Of this, 8009 MW has already been commissioned in the first year of the 11th Plan as on 12.3.2008. In addition, projects aggregating 61399 MW are under construction. All the stakeholders have been sensitized to complete the ordering process in respect of remaining 11th Plan projects expeditiously. Based on the current status of projects, envisaged capacity is expected to fructify in the 11th Plan period.

(c) Central Electricity Authority has intimated that with a capacity addition of over 78,500 MW envisaged through thermal, hydro and nuclear segments and 14,000 MW envisaged through other renewables, the demand of power in the country as a whole is likely to be fully met by the terminal year of 11th Plan.